

Dear FCC,

10/13/04

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair should in all fairness to the public, tell both sides of any story and especially this one which is so important to the entire nation. In light of the fact that there have been polls taken as to whether or not different stations are biased for one party or the other, I would think they would never want to be accused of such a malpractice of journalism.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter. This reminds me of something you would see happening in a depressed country, where only the thoughts and wishes of those in power are placed on the air. We are not a third world country or a depressed nation. We are AMERICA AND THIS SORT OF PRACTICE SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED!

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. I feel that Sinclair's practices should be scrutinized by the FCC and even fined for media obstruction if necessary. Thank you.

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Concerned Citizen